Soviet Union as a result of the recent tremendous changes that have taken place there. There are about 4000 Indian students scattered all over in the different republics. Now, the different republics are asking the Indian students to pay their fees in hard currency. The stipend of 100 roubles per month given to the Indian students has also been stopped and they are asking them to pay the fees in hard currency. Under the present circumstances, these students are not in a position to pay their fees in hard currency.

Another problem is that they are being denied admission in various colleges and other educational institutions there. If they are asked to pack up and come back to India, then they will find it difficult to get admission in this country as there is difference in the systems of education here and there. If they will be thrown out, they will be totally ruined because they will not get admission here which is equivalent to their education and classes in the Soviet Union.

So, the two problems which the Indian students are facing in Soviet Union are admission and payment of fees in hard currency. Some for us are being flooded with letters and telephone fcalls from these students and their parents. There are about 4000 Indian students in the Soviet Union. The Embassy here is getting SOS calls from the students as well as their parents. So, this is an urgent matter which the Government of India, especially the External Affairs Minister, should take care of. I request through you, the hon. External Affairs Minister to pay immediate attention to this matter. (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU (Secundrabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Vishwa Karma is considered a symbol of artisans of the country. He is considered responsible for several tools and equipments for the use of small rural artisans. All the artisans of India such as cobblers, pot makers, goldsmith, blacksmith, carpenters etc. worship Vishwa-karma as god. Our village folk specially rural artisans mostly depend on tools developed by Vishwakarma. Vishwakarma Jayanti is falling on 17 September. I would request the Central Government to celebrate this day as "National Labour Day". Till today, we have been celebrating this day as "May Day" as Worker's Day, but it has almost lost its significance in present context. Now it seems proper to celebrate Vishwa karma Jayanti as "National Labour Day" I hope Government would soon announce '17th September' as 'Vishwakarma Day'. (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: It is known to the House and to you, Sir, that there is a very serious flood situation in North Bengal.

MR. SPEAKER : We have decided not to allow senior Members to speak. Don't you like to be considered as one of the senior Members ?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: By remaining present here yesterday till midnight and early hours of the day, I prove myself to be a back bencher. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Okay, today you have earned time to speak. Now come on.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : In north Bengal, the intensity of flood is very serious. This is evident from the fact that 17 persons have already lost their lives. (*Interruptions*) It seems now the figure has gone to 42. You have not permitted me to read today's newspaper. So, I do not know the latest figure.

Sir, it is necessary that urgent relief is given to Bengal. A central Team also should visit the area and in association with the State Government try to mitigate the situation. There has already been a very swift response from the hon. Prime Minister. He has already granted some amount from his Relief Fund. Unfortunately, there is one matter of propriety that has escaped his

notice. Sir, propriety of parliamentary institutions of the country requires that the relief given by the Central Government, even if it happens to be from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, should be channelised through the State Governments. But here, instead of that, we have learnt that one hon. Minister has been deputed to distribute the fund through District Magistrates in the districts. As you are aware Sir, if anything has happened in West Bengal, it is that the Panchayat institutions are firmly in saddle and the elected people from the lowest village level upto State level are firmly guiding the administration. Under these circumstances, I want to draw the attention of Prime Minister through you and request him, that whatever he condescends to donate for the afflicted people in North Bengal, that should be channelised through the State Government and nobody else. I do not accuse him of any partisan political considerations. I consider him a gentleman and it might be a slip. He should be requested that he should resist such 'slippages'. That is all I submit.(*Interruptions*).

DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL (Calcutta North-West): There was nothing wrong or unconventional if the contribution from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund was sent for distribution through a Central Minister by the district magtistrates. The hon. Member who raised this issue should not bne so sensitive and he should not try to find anything wrong in the action of the hon. Prime Minister. Here I may mention that it has been our experience that if relief funds are distributed through the agencies of the State Government, sometimes political and other partisan considerations take an upper hand and the relief fund is distributed not always to those who require the assistance most, but to the persons who might belong to a particular group or a political party. Hence, the Prime Minister has done the right thing in distributing the fund through a Central Minister.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN (Cooch Bihar) : Sir, nearly one crore people of West Bengal are affected by floods. They require immediate relief to save their lives. Through you, I request the hon. Minister to send a Central Team immediately to Bengal. Ast least Rs. 25 crores should be provided to the Government of West Bengal for relief work, as an ad hoc grant.

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapara) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am still in a dilemma whether I should raise this question or not. As such, I want your guidance. I along with my friend and a C.P.I. member, Shri Lokanath Choudhury reached the airport on our way to Bhubaneshwar.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you had also to go to Bhubaneshwar but you could not reach there. B.P.S.T. had arranged an orientation programme there. Before reaching that place, I requested Shri Farooq to be in the House. The aircraft 477 left for Bhubaneshwar on time. The said aircraft goes to Bhubaneshwar via Raipur and it proceeded towards Bhubaneshwar after touching Raipur. When I and Shri Lokanath Choudhury were getting down, we found ourselves once again in Raipur. Perhaps we were sleeping (*Interruptions*) Shri Chatterjee is smiling but he will realise the discomfiture. Our aeroplane met with two mishaps. We called the captain and asked him as to how we were back in Raipur. He told us that because of the inclement weather in Bhubaneshwar, the plane landed in Raipur. I asked him where we would go next. He replied that we would be sent to Bhubaneswar by a relief plane.

Now takes place the second mishap. Just before landing at the Delhi airport, there was an announcement for impending crash landing or emergency landing. All arrangements were made for emergency landing. Lokanathji and I were class mates. In a light vein, I told Lokanathji that both of us had crossed the age of 64. Now we would have to prepare ourselves mentally for belly landing. We had no experience of belly landing. Choudhuryji had experienced it once fourteen years ago. During the course of that